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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Franklin Man Sentenced for Fatal Traffic Crash

State v. Thomas Leonard, 2016-CR-1078

DAYTON, OH (12/16/2016) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **THOMAS EUGENE LEONARD**, 56, of Franklin, was sentenced to 4 years in prison for causing a crash on I-75 that occurred on August 26, 2015, in which Mitchell Munoz, of Trenton, was killed.

Around 7:15 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, the defendant was driving a pickup truck at a high rate of speed southbound on I-75. Witnesses reported the defendant was driving recklessly and his vehicle was passing other motorists on the shoulder. Just south of the West Carrollton / Central Avenue exit, near mile marker 46, the defendant drove his vehicle off the right side of the roadway and struck the victim's vehicle, which was parked on the shoulder. The victim was sitting in his car, waiting for a tow truck because he had a flat tire. Earlier, an Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper had stopped and checked on Munoz, making sure he was safely off the roadway with his hazard lights on.

The victim, 41-year-old Mitchell Munoz, of Trenton, was pronounced dead at the scene. Witness statements and an accident reconstruction estimated the defendant's vehicle was traveling well over 100 mph at the time of the crash.

On June 1, 2016, the defendant was indicted for one count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide. On November 9, 2016, he was found guilty as charged.

In addition to the prison sentence, the defendant also received a mandatory 10-year driver's license suspension.

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For more information, contact Mr. Greg Flannagan, Public Information Officer, at 937.225.5610 or flannagan@mcoho.org